GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1326
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2002
MODERN ARMS FOR ARMY
K. ASUNGBA SANGTAM

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Army seeks modern arms for VDCs` appeared in Indian Express, dated June 10, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts thereof:

(c) the reasons for not equipping VDCs with modern automatic weapons; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a) to (d): Government is aware of the media report in this regard. The Scheme of VDC has been implemented by the State Government of J&K, with the aim to inculcate an element of security amongst the masses specially in the remote and scattered population. VDC consist of village volunteers and each VDC has been provided with a nucleus of 03 Special Police Officers (SPOs) The SPOs attached with VDCs are armed with semi automatic weapons, etc. VDC volunteer members are provided with weapons etc. and some upgradation of their weaponry is being undertaken by the State Government. However for operational and security reasons it is not considered appropriate to equip each VDC member with automatic weapons.